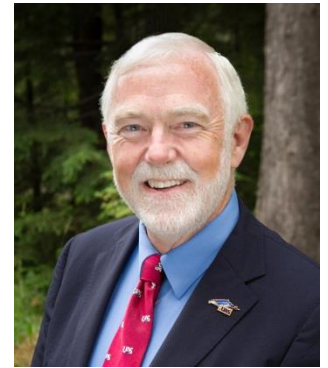


## **CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS:**

### ***From UAS Chancellor Rick Caulfield***

**September 13, 2017 -- *Welcome to the new academic year!***



#### **RETENTION IS KEY TO STUDENT LEARNING:**

The beginning of the new academic year brings the excitement of entering freshman students, the enthusiasm of adult learners returning to the university for new knowledge and skills, and the admirable but challenging juggling by students of work, family, and study. Our responsibility to all of them is to support their learning: to broaden horizons, to offer opportunity and equity, to transform lives.

With the fall semester underway, supporting the educational goals of these students and seeing them through to successful completion is our foremost task. Retention is the key. Retention means offering quality, student-focused instruction—setting high expectations and providing support to enable students to achieve those expectations. Retention means providing student-focused services: continuing to make UAS a place where students feel valued and part of a family. Retention means taking uncommon and creative steps to remove those obstacles. Retention means continuous improvement in our student services; seeking ways to make our services less cumbersome and bureaucratic and more student-friendly.

Student retention means bringing all our university services to bear for those who are struggling. We know that it is often at the beginning of a new semester that many students struggle. It is essential just now to connect those students with support networks and resources. I was pleased to learn last week that XX faculty used our Early Alert system to identify students who appear to need support. An Early Alert shows that our faculty are committed to supporting and retaining students; connecting them with others on our campuses who can assist. An Early Alert brings the full resources of our university to bear in holding these students up—providing them additional tutoring or advising, connecting them with counseling or health services, or directing them to other resources in the community.

Just now, supporting student learning and retaining our students at UAS is our foremost task. It's important to our students, to our university, and to the communities we serve.

#### **BOARD OF REGENTS MEETS IN JUNEAU:**

The UA Board of Regents meets in Juneau this Thursday and Friday, September 14-15. Regents will hold their regular meeting on Thursday, and Friday will be a day for strategic planning. One of the topics affecting UAS on the agenda is the future Alaska College of Education. President Johnsen will share his thoughts about an adjustment to the process of implementing the new College. That adjustment continues to plan for a single statewide College of Education, housed at UAS. This College will be led by an executive dean, located in Juneau. The executive dean will have statewide leadership responsibilities, and will work with a UA-wide Teacher Education Council and external stakeholders. While adhering to this core structure, the adjustment anticipates leaving Education faculty, staff, and students at UAA and UAF affiliated with their home universities—not becoming part of UAS as originally conceived. Instead, the existing Education college/school at those universities will be melded into other units on those campuses—similar to the recent merger of our UAS School of Management into Arts & Sciences. This adjustment is expected to streamline accreditation review and allow expedited implementation of the new College at UAS.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Rick Caulfield". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Chancellor Rick Caulfield